



NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 23, 2014

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Nebraska Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) is celebrating its 25th year of finding solutions for people with disabilities and their families by providing access to assistive technology devices and services.

Over 25 years, the state agency has grown to 10 offices statewide, providing on-site assessments in homes, schools and worksites.

Technology specialists identify cost effective solutions, including home modifications, technology for classroom use and workplace adjustments. In partnership with others, including Nebraska Health and Human Services and Nebraska VR, ATP designs plans, reviews vendor quotes and follows projects to completion after an initial assessment.

“We are grateful for the many partnerships that have made our success possible and we look forward to helping more individuals be successful using assistive technology,” said ATP Director Leslie Novacek.

Part of finding the right solution for individuals includes spending hands-on time with devices, either at a demonstration center or during a short-term loan. ATP also helps recycle equipment and is building a statewide network to expand the reuse of equipment.

In 1989, Nebraska VR applied for a grant to establish ATP, becoming one of nine states that received funding under the Technology-Related Assistance Act of 1988. The goal was to develop statewide programs to help people with disabilities, their families, educators, employers, service providers and healthcare professionals access assistive technology devices and services.

ATP's mission has not changed over the years, but has grown considerable. Initially, ATP provided information statewide from a toll-free number, one office, and a peer support network that assisted individuals in their communities. Small demonstration centers helped to increase awareness about assistive technology.

To learn more about ATP, call 888-806-6287 or e-mail atp@atp.ne.gov or visit www.atp.ne.gov.